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a scheme could not be worked in the States without much alteration in the present system, under which license to teach in one state does not apply to any other ; nor is there a plan on any large scale like that of our local examinations, which enables schools to compare their standards and the public to gain some notion of results. The Regents of the University of the State of New York have done something in this direction, but it applies chiefly to public schools. Harvard has also instituted a sort of "local examination," which is taken by some private schools. Occasionally a State University—for instance, Michigan—undertakes to inspect the school, whose graduates it exempts from entrance examination ; but this, too, applies chiefly to public schools.

A large and valuable part of the book is taken up with a description of the methods of teaching. This brief notice of a really suggestive résumé of ourselves may perhaps best be closed by quoting an artless remark that may well set several of us to thinking : "It is interesting to note that those schools whose curriculum is specially directed towards preparation for college are not those that do the best work in literature. They are to some extent hampered by the entrance examination. Set books for outside examinations must always to some extent cramp the work, besides introducing the necessity of different work for different colleges."

C. H. Thurber

Elementary Composition and Rhetoric. By WILLIAM EDWARD MEAD, Ph. D., Professor of the English Language in Wesleyan University. Boston, New York and Chicago : Leach, Shewell & Sanborn.

The present tendency in text-books of rhetoric is to minimize theory and to add practical exercises in composition. Both of these are found in admirable measure in the excellent book of Professor Mead. It consists of two parts—theory, from page 6 to 192, and practice from page 193 to 277. The part devoted to theory has chapters treating words, sentences, paragraphs, the theme, kinds of composition, composition and revision and style. Figures of speech, which take so large a part of many treatises, are here placed somewhat irregularly under words. But practical suggestions in all these chapters are to be commended for their usefulness, particularly to young writers. Especially worthy of note are the pages in the first chapter relating to changes in English and to borrowed words, and the section treating grammatical concord in the chapter on

sentences. The chapter on the paragraph, though good, might have distinguished different kinds of paragraphs to advantage. In the remaining portion of part I. the discussion of theme writing in several chapters is commendable for its valuable hints.

Part II., besides having examples illustrating the early chapters of the book, consists of plans for essays of various kinds with numerous subjects for similar treatment. One chapter, called studies in literature, is designed to assist students in preparing for the college examinations in English, and will be found particularly helpful in secondary schools.

On the whole, Mead's *Rhetoric* may be commended as eminently practical, and one that will be found useful and instructive wherever used.

Oliver Farrar Emerson

Cornell University

Cicero : By J. L. STRACHAN-DAVIDSON. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

Readable trustworthy books about Cicero are not numerous in the English language, and for that reason this book will be eagerly read.

One's attention is first drawn to the large number of excellent illustrations. There are nearly thirty, most of them from Duruy's *History of Rome*, all delightful and all appropriate. The appearance of the book is very pleasing throughout, and is uniform with the rest of the series, *Heroes of the Nations*.

It is not an easy undertaking within the limits of about four hundred and thirty pages to tell the story of Cicero's life, connected as it is with so much that is important and interesting in the history of the great city; there are so many temptations to turn aside in pursuit of alluring themes. But the author has maintained a very steady course and has displayed good judgment in the selection of topics to be emphasized and of those to be more lightly passed over.

A noticeable characteristic of this sketch is the extent to which Cicero is made to tell his own story by selections from his orations and letters, and it must be added that the translations are quite unique in point of vigor and originality. One can not fail to notice the multitude of historical incidents and Roman customs in religion, social life, and politics, which are skilfully woven into the narrative, and are made to have a vital connection with the rest of the book.